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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-first session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

1. At its 14th meeting, on 20 June 2001, the Committee considered section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The Controller introduced section 1 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Concerns were expressed on the format of the section, which was different from other sections of the proposed programme budget. The view was expressed that the programme narrative should have been presented in terms of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, which could have allowed for better evaluation of programme implementation at the end of the biennium.

4. The presentation of resources of travel of representatives to the General Assembly was welcomed, whereby the resources of the Office of the Presidents were presented separately from the travel of representatives of Member States that were least developed countries. It was observed that the fact that the resources for

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the President of the Assembly did not reflect any growth might have a negative impact on the accomplishment of the President's official responsibility.

5. Reference was made to paragraph 2.7 of section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, where provisions were made for the special sessions of the Assembly on a new agenda for development in Africa and on disarmament and terrorism; and concern was expressed on the apparent inconsistency of treatment, as provisions were made under that section but no provisions were made under section 1 for the travel of representatives for special sessions of the Assembly.

6. Questions were raised on the number of new posts proposed and on the reclassifications of posts under the section. The view was expressed that detailed programme justifications should have been provided in those respects.

7. The view was expressed that the function of the Office of External Relations in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General appeared to show duplication and overlapping of functions undertaken by other offices. Support was expressed, nevertheless, for the strengthening of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and that of the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. Regarding the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the view was expressed that that Office should be more functional, more dynamic and better used.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

9. The Committee recommended that the activities related to executive direction and management be presented in terms of objectives, expected accomplishments, and indicators of achievements, where possible.